

21 C.J.S. Courts § 203

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Courts

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VI. Rules of Adjudication, Decisions, and Opinions

B. Stare Decisis

2. Courts Making Prior Decision

§ 203. Intermediate appellate courts—Different districts

[Topic Summary](#) | [References](#) | [Correlation Table](#)

West's Key Number Digest

West's Key Number Digest, [Courts](#)  91(2), 96(5)

Although conflicts between judicial districts should be minimized, courts within a district must follow the decisions of the appellate court having jurisdiction over it.

One district of an appellate court should follow the decisions of another district;¹ a circuit court—even one sitting in its appellate capacity—must abide by precedent from another district court of appeal if no precedent exists from its own district.² If there is a conflict among appellate districts of coordinate jurisdiction, an inferior court in one district should follow the decisions of its own appellate court.³ In the absence of interdistrict conflict, decisions of one district court of appeals represent the law of the state, binding all trial courts.⁴

CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT

Cases:

The Court of Appeal is not bound by an opinion of another District Court of Appeal. [People v. Osotonu](#), 35 Cal. App. 5th 992, 247 Cal. Rptr. 3d 797 (1st Dist. 2019), review denied, (Aug. 14, 2019).

[END OF SUPPLEMENT]

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Footnotes

- 1 Fla.—[Chapman v. Pinellas County](#), 423 So. 2d 578 (Fla. 2d DCA 1982).
- 2 Fla.—[Nader v. Florida Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles](#), 87 So. 3d 712 (Fla. 2012).
- 3 Ill.—[People v. Thorpe](#), 52 Ill. App. 3d 576, 10 Ill. Dec. 351, 367 N.E.2d 960 (2d Dist. 1977).
- 4 Fla.—[State v. Barnum](#), 921 So. 2d 513 (Fla. 2005), as revised on denial of reh'g, (Feb. 9, 2006).
N.Y.—[Nobre ex rel. Ferraro v. Shanahan](#), 42 Misc. 3d 909, 976 N.Y.S.2d 841 (Sup 2013).